

Wellington (Salop) Rural District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

on the

Health and Sanitary
Circumstances

of the

Wellington (Salop) Rural District

for the Year 1948

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Wellington (Salop) Rural District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1948.

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COUNCILLOR J. WORMSTONE.

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	„ G. B. LEWIS.

Staff :

DR. W. A. M. STEWART, M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Medical Officer of Health).

H. WALL (Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector).

A. H. RILEY (Sanitary Inspector).

This Annual Report shows little change in character from that of the preceding year with the exception that there is some slight diminution in the scope of the survey. The control of diphtheria prophylaxis has passed entirely under the direction of the County Authority and reference to this has been omitted; Ambulance Service which has followed a similar course is, however, directed locally and a note in this relation has been included. The Ministry of Health has this year in the direction for reporting made provision for the inclusion of details of outbreaks of illness due to food-poisoning ; no cases of this nature have been brought to notice.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Generally it may be said that 1948 was a year of comparative freedom from disease. There were no epidemics and such infections as arose were limited in character. There was a rise in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, many of which occurred in the more populous parts of the District. The disease has been of a mild nature requiring little more than isolation in treatment. Measles and Whooping Cough have been equal in numbers, and the former showed a marked fall from the total of 1947. Again the Area has been completely free from Diphtheria and one case only of Infantile Paralysis has been reported.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

The Birth Rate has been higher than that of England and Wales, while the Death Rate has been lower — conditions which might be expected to prevail in a rural community with a limited degree of overcrowding.

GENERAL DEATHS.

This Rate has been low and compares well with that of the Country.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The total on the Register continues to show a rise ; this is in keeping with that of neighbouring Authorities. It will be noted that much of this rise is accounted for in the increase of disease in the non-pulmonary group. The Death Rate is well below that of England and Wales.

MISCELLANEOUS.

During the course of the year a change has been made in the personnel of the Public Health Department. Mr. Adams, Sanitary Inspector since 1936, retired from his post of charge on reaching the age limit and this was filled by the promotion of Mr. Wall, who has been with the Council since 1943. To replace Mr. Wall, Mr. Riley took up duty from Croydon. A large volume

of work of the Department has been directed to development and control of sanitary surveying together with supervision and direction of new buildings other than council properties. Nevertheless, every effort has been made to maintain constant watch over such routine matters as are of everyday occurrence, and it may be said that as a result an enormous variety of subjects pass through this Department in a twelvemonth. In some measure this is reflected in the reports which are furnished monthly.

In presenting this Report the Medical Officer of Health takes this opportunity of thanking his Colleagues for their courtesy and continuous co-operation in the working of the Department and in the compilation of this Report.

SECTION "A."

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	54,584
Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	..	21,660
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948) according to		
Rate Books	.. .. .	5,934
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£113,938
Sum represented by one penny rate	.. .. .	£426
Persons per acre (calculated on population)	.. .. .	.4

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Registrar General's Estimate of Mid-Summer Population shows a considerable rise on that of the preceding year. In exploring the cause of this, account has been taken of new housing and settlement in premises of a more temporary character, but these do not explain the increase. It would appear, therefore, that this rise has been due to the presence of a displaced persons camp in the area which, being of civilian nature, has been taken into consideration in this calculation. This being so, the rise will be temporary and future returns should revert to normal.

In the field of social conditions some progress has been made. In the Donnington Area additional facilities have been provided for outdoor recreation and sport — tennis, bowling and a children's playground. Again here steps have been taken to allow for worship in more seemly buildings, but local residents still feel the lack of such amenities as are associated with urban living and which are still wanting owing to difficulty in building development.

Over the whole area there is need for the rapid building of new houses to allow persons working locally to live in these parts near to their employment.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS.

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	224	190	414
Illegitimate	..	..	17	18	35
Totals	..		241	208	449

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 20·7
 Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and
 Wales) 17·9

STILL BIRTHS.

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Legitimate	..	..	2	3	5
Illegitimate	..	..	1	1	2
Totals	..		3	4	7

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births 15·4

DEATHS.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Total number of deaths ..	91	87	178
Death Rate per 1,000 of population			8·2
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ..			10·8

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

All Infants, per 1,000 live births	26·7
All Infants, per 1,000 live births (England and Wales) ..	34
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live Legitimate Births ..	28·9
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live Illegitimate Births ..	—

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Total number of Infant Deaths.			
Legitimate ..	9	3	12
Illegitimate ..	—	—	—
Deaths from : Cancer (all ages)			33
Measles (all ages)			—
Whooping Cough (all ages)			—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			—

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Under this heading there were no deaths.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.

Tuberculosis (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	4
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	—
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Maternal Causes	..	..	..	..	..	—
Cancer ..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	..	..	..	..	..	25
Heart Disease and Circulatory Disturbances	..	..	..	..	..	47
Respiratory Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nephritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Premature Births and Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	8
Diabetes..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Abdominal Disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	—
Violence ..	..	..	..	..	..	8

SECTION “ B.”

General Provision for Health Services in the Area.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

As was reported last year this service has now been incorporated into the larger County Group and is generally supervised by that Authority. However, it has been found to be convenient to retain a principal depot at Donnington controlled by a local committee. The resultant has been satisfactory — a good service of ambulances being available with means of augmentation should the need arise. Very few complaints have been noted as a result of this change.

MORTUARY SERVICE.

Progress has been made during the year to further the project for a Joint Mortuary Service with the Dawley and Oaken-gates Urban District Councils. Approval was obtained from the Ministry for the acceptance of a tender for carrying out the alterations necessary to convert the buildings to a mortuary and the end of the year saw a commencement of the work. The need for such premises in the locality has been experienced on several occasions. The whole building, comprising a mortuary, post-mortem room, viewing-room and waiting room will, when completed, meet this need and be in keeping with the desires of the Joint Committee, and be welcomed by local Doctors.

An additional duty, prescribed by recent legislation, has been placed on District Authorities in as much as it is now their responsibility to deal with such deaths as occur in their areas and for whom no means of burial are available. This group may include the destitute and such as have neither relatives or connections. It is not expected that many cases of this character will arise.

HOME HELPS.

The need for assistance in the home arising from emergency — sickness, childbirth and the like — and where help cannot be got by private arrangement has been surmounted by the association of the County Authority with the Women's Voluntary Service. As a result helps are now available to meet the calls of such in need. A Local Office has been opened in Wellington to deal with all calls and the service covers that Town together with the more immediate neighbourhood in the Rural Area. Householders of all classes can avail themselves of this, and where use has already been made reports have been very satisfactory. This service in some measure has a financial return, but it is not self-supporting.

SECTION "C."

Refuse Disposal and Collection.

With the delivery of a new refuse collection vehicle during the year to supplement the reconditioned one already in use it has been found possible to extend the scavenging service to cover the whole of the district.

In four of the parishes which are urban in character the service is still operated fortnightly and judging from the few complaints received it may be regarded as satisfactory. In the remainder of the district the service given is on a monthly basis and is at present limited in its scope to properties provided with proper sanitary dustbins. It is not claimed that this service is satisfactory; it is well-known that the standard size dustbin is insufficient to store a month's accumulation of refuse, but the position can only be remedied effectively by general improvement in the labour position. It has been found during the year that as a result of a public notice, the number of dustbins in the country districts is increasing and a considerable number of properties are now covered by a monthly service.

A major problem with which we are confronted in the smaller communities is the removal of existing accumulations of refuse. Some of these amount to 20—30 tons and have taken several days to move. In consequence, removal of such accumulations can only be undertaken as time and labour permit.

Throughout the district the collection of refuse is carried out by direct labour and disposal is by tipping. There are five tips in operation and it is regretted that it has not been found possible to operate controlled tipping on these sites. Attention to the levelling of these tips and their treatment to prevent nuisance arising from flies has been given. The lack of labour to give effective control on these tips has been largely instrumental in confining tipping to sites already in use, but this in turn entails long hauls from the outlying districts, with consequent and unavoidable waste of time.

SALVAGE.

Until October, 1948, the collection of salvage was very haphazard and generally only carried out on request. On a part-time basis it could not be hoped to achieve anything like a reasonable service and the results obtained were not creditable.

Owing to increased propaganda by the Ministry of Supply and the Waste Paper Recovery Association the Council considered methods of increasing salvage collections and, fully realising the probabilities of incurring a financial loss in operating such a scheme, it was decided to commence a regular service from the beginning of October.

A van was adapted for the purpose and a full-time driver-collector employed, assisted at a later date by a youth. The depot for storage and baling was transferred to more suitable premises at Donnington and the results achieved during the remaining three months of the year were as follows :

Waste Paper	..	14 tons 6 cwts. 2 qtrs.
Rags and Textiles		2 cwts. 3 qtrs.
Other materials	..	1 cwt. 2 qtrs.

During the first nine months of the year only 3 tons 17 cwts. of waste paper were collected.

DISINFESTATION AND CONTROL OF VERMIN.

Rat Control. While announcements have been made concerning the introduction in Parliament of a Bill to transfer powers for dealing with rats from the County Councils to District Councils, the operation of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act and the Infestation Order continues in the hands of the County Council and numerous complaints arising within the District from private properties have been satisfactorily dealt with by their staff. Efficient control of rats on refuse tips and sewage disposal works under the Council's control has been maintained through continuance of the contract with the County Council.

It is felt that there is still a considerable amount of indifference on the part of many people towards the eradication of rats. Reports are not forthcoming when householders realise that they

would probably be called upon to pay for the necessary treatment to rid their premises of rats and it would not be surprising to find a very considerable increase in complaints if the financial responsibility for such treatment was to be borne by the Local Authority.

Vermin Control. Fortunately complaints of infestation of premises by bugs, fleas and other vermin are comparatively few in your District and no particular difficulty has been experienced in dealing with such infestations. The co-operation of householders in this connection has been secured and success has been achieved in most cases by the householder following closely advice given by your Sanitary Officers.

No cases have arisen for the cleansing of verminous persons.

It is paradoxical that good should come out of evil, for it was during the dark days of the War that D.D.T. was introduced and proved so effective for control of vermin and consequential disease among troops. The effectiveness of D.D.T. and Gam-mexane in peace time is likewise apparent, the control of vermin no longer being the formidable task of previous years.

Water.

1. No. and source of water schemes of which the District Council and adjoining Authorities are the Water Undertakers. 9.
No. of houses served by (1). 3,752.
Population served by (1). 13,187.
2. No. and source of water schemes owned by private persons. 5.
No. of houses served by (2). 175.
Population served by (2). 602.
3. No. of houses served by private wells. 1,725.
Population served by (3). 5,992.
4. No. of houses supplied by standpipe. 302.
5. Has any water supply in the district been unsatisfactory in quality and/or quantity? If so, give particulars.
Yes. The privately owned supplies at Roden, Kynnersley and Tibberton have consistently been of dubious quality. The scheme for provision of a main supply for Kynnersley has still not been commenced, although the contract was signed during the year. Delay has been occasioned by serious hold-up in the delivery of the necessary pipes and fittings which was estimated to be approximately 18 months.
- 5a. Chlorination. *All public supplies originating from the boreholes of the Rural District Council, the Wellington Urban District Council and the Borough of Wenlock are chlorinated at source.*

6. SAMPLING.

<i>Supply.</i>	<i>No. of Bact. exams.</i>	<i>No. of Chem. exams.</i>	<i>Before/ After Chlorina- tion.</i>	<i>Satis- fac- tory.</i>	<i>Un- satis- fac- tory.</i>
Kynnersley (well) ..	4	—	Before	1	3
Tibberton (well) ..	4	—	Before	1	3
Roden (borehole) ..	6	—	Before	2	4
Lilleshall (borehole) ..	5	1	After	6	—
Lawn Farm, Rush- moor Lane (well) ..	2	1	Before	1	2
Arleston Hill (well) ..	1	—	Before	—	1
Lawley Furnaces (well)	1	—	Before	—	1
The Stores, High Er- call (well) ..	1	—	Before	1	—
14 Chetwynd Road, Edgmond (well) ..	1	—	Before	—	1
2 Trench Fields (well)	1	—	Before	—	1
Bratton (well) ..	1	—	Before	—	1
Malt Shovel, Lee- gomery (well) ..	1	—	Before	—	1
Red House Farm, Ellerdine (bore) ..	1	1	Before	1	1
Leaton Grange (wells)	2	2	Before	2	2

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

There have been no extensions or repairs to existing water-works but a scheme in the Lawley area for extension of the water main was approved and the contract signed. This extension is to supply water to a number of properties mainly in the Borough of Wenlock, the inhabitants of which have suffered severe shortage for a considerable number of years. Delay in obtaining materials has prevented a commencement of this extension.

Work on the laying of a new main from the Shifnal area to augment the supply to the Wellington Rural Parish has proceeded during the year and the construction of a new reservoir at Dawley Bank was practically complete by the year end. The shortages experienced by the residents in this parish for a number of years seem to be within reasonable distance of being overcome and the completion of the scheme is eagerly awaited.

Contracts were signed during the year for extension of mains for the supply of water to the villages of High Erroll and Kynnersley, but in spite of efforts to obtain delivery of materials to enable the schemes to commence, a promise of 12 months delivery was the best assurance which could be given.

The year has been marked by confirmation of the scheme for a Joint Water Board and those whose work and foresight has resulted in this achievement will look forward with optimistic anticipation to the control of water supplies passing to the hands of the Board in April next.

GENERAL SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH DURING YEAR.

1. Premises in such a state as to be a nuisance (excluding structural matters). 85.
2. Privies and Pail Closets converted to Water Closets. 28.
Houses re-drained. 31.
Number of Houses connected to Sewer. 110.
3. Offensive Accumulations. 6.
4. Nuisances arising from water courses, ditches, etc. 9.
5. Public Lavatories. *At the moment plans have been made to provide suitable accommodation at Donnington, Ketley and Hadley, but so far it has not been possible to make progress in the actual building of such accommodation. As has been pointed out and re-emphasised from time to time the need at Donnington is great and it is hoped particularly in this instance that any difficulties may be overcome and this much-needed convenience should be there for the benefit of the community.*

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

Nothing worthy of mention has received attention during the year.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The adaptation of a large house at Church Aston was commenced during the year for boarding accommodation in connection with the Newport Grammar School.

Progress has been slow on the new junior school at Donnington. It had been generally hoped in the locality that completion would be effected by the Autumn, but this was not the case.

A group of ex-service buildings at High Ercall were acquired during the year by the education authority and work was put in hand for the adaptation of these as a Modern School.

Preliminary proposals were also made by the education authority for the building of new Senior, Junior and Infants' Schools on land at Hadley. These proposals are welcomed, as the overcrowded condition of schools in the locality is well known.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

1. No. of sewage works owned by District Council. 10.
No. of Houses dealt with by public sewers. 3,016.
2. No. of private sewage disposal works. 2.
No. of houses dealt with by these. 35.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The rebuilding of the three sludge lagoons at Hadley Sewage Disposal Works was completed during the year and while they have functioned as expected it was obvious that their capacity was limited and overloading could not be avoided. This gave further proof of the need of extension and modernisation at these works. The Council were agreed on this and instructed their Consultant Engineer to prepare a scheme for submission to the Ministry.

In spite of delivery of the pumps and other machinery for the new pumping station at Leegomery, the operation of this plant was not an established fact by the year end. It is difficult to realise that this comparatively small installation has taken over three years to date and while every effort has been made by the Council to speed its completion, progress has been dictated by contractors and the plant manufacturers. The old pumping machinery has continued to function more by force of habit than for any other reason, but nuisance has been caused at times by sewage overflowing on to the road surface from one of the manholes.

The new sewerage scheme at Church Aston was completed during the year and the new Council houses erected in the village connected thereto.

Following a Ministry of Health Enquiry into the scheme for provision of sewers in the village of High Ercall, formal permission is awaited to instruct contractors to proceed.

The necessity for schemes of sewage disposal in other parts of the district has been emphasized at various meetings and your Engineer was requested to make preliminary investigations into the possibilities in a number of cases. The proposed scheme for the village of Edgmond was formally submitted to the Ministry of Health during the year and decision to hold a public enquiry is awaited.

SECTION "D."

Housing.

NEW COUNCIL HOUSES. PERMANENT HOUSES.

Total No. of Houses in schemes sanctioned by the Ministry of Health :

(a) Traditional. 176.

(b) Prefabricated. 12.

Total No. of Houses for which sites were prepared in 1948. 64.

Total No. of Houses completed. 99.

No. of Houses completed in 1948. 66.

No. of Houses in progress. 89.

NEW PRIVATE HOUSES.

- No. of plans for new Houses submitted. 32.
- No. of plans for new Houses passed and licensed. 31.
- No. of new Houses completed. 13.
- No. of new houses in progress. 11.

EXISTING HOUSES.

Clearance Areas and Individual Unfit Houses. *The condition of a considerable number of houses in the district is well known. To attempt any large scale reconditioning is out of the question and to attempt representation of a large number of unfit houses is not likely to be looked on with favour at the present time. It would appear, therefore, that the houses in the worst condition are those likely to have the least attention from the repair point of view. In consequence, the number of unfit houses in the district must be increasing. Serious consideration has been given by the Housing Committee in the letting of new houses to the elimination of some of the blackspots in the district and it is pleasing to note some of these are disappearing and others are likely to follow within the next year.*

OVERCROWDING.

Consideration has also been given by the Housing Committee to particularly bad cases of overcrowding, with the result that a number have been allocated new houses and the overcrowding thereby relieved.

HOUSING REPAIRS.

- No. of Houses inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts. 152.
- No. of Inspections made for the purpose. 201.
- No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit by informal action. 29.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

- (a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936—
 - No. of Houses requiring repair. *Nil.*
 - No. of Houses rendered fit after formal action. *Nil.*
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—
 - No. of Houses requiring repair. *Nil.*
 - No. of Houses in which defects remedied after formal action. *Nil.*

COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES AND MANAGEMENT.

At the 31st December, 1948, the Council are the Owners of 1,619 permanent houses of varying types built at intervals since the 1914-18 War, the gross rental value of which is in the region of £51,500.

The largest Estate of 844 houses and 12 shops at Donnington was built in very difficult circumstances during the late war for the accommodation of War Department personnel working at the Central Ordnance Depot at Donnington, and by agreement with the War Office, who contributed to a considerable extent towards the cost of the scheme, all nominations for tenancies are made by the Depot Authorities. In consequence of this, the families occupying the houses are drawn from all parts of the country and the general standard has been found to be good.

The Estate is planned to provide sites for places of worship, two schools, a cinema, an institute, and also licensed premises, but except for the building of one junior school — now in course of erection — and the erection of temporary premises for a Methodist Church and Roman Catholic Church and a small Youth hut, it has not been possible, owing to labour and materials difficulties, to proceed as originally intended.

The provision of adequate facilities for such a comparatively large centre of population continues to cause anxiety to the many newly formed and enthusiastic associations to be found in the area, who rightly claim that social activities are seriously curtailed because of the lack of suitable buildings in which to hold meetings, concerts and the like.

The Council has always shown a keen interest in the subject and whenever possible have rendered what help they could, but unfortunately with little success so far, and therefore the people of Donnington must continue to wait with what patience they can for a general improvement in building conditions.

Due to the extremely difficult conditions prevailing at the time of the construction of the houses the original design was considerably interfered with and the appearance of the greater number is adversely affected by the compulsory introduction of flat roofs to save timber, which type of roof is proving troublesome and demands much more attention than the orthodox tiled and pitched roof. The substitution of iron water pipes for copper or lead — again compulsory — is also a matter of grave concern and their re-laying in good materials, work upon which is already proceeding, will continue to a greater extent as time goes on, thus proving a major item in the Council's maintenance costs, which are already far higher than should be expected in an estate so recently built.

The remainder of the Council's property is distributed throughout the district, the majority being found in the industrial parts and in the main are of reasonably good standard. Unfortunately, many of these houses are not supplied with electric current, proper bathrooms and hot water services so essential in these days, and it is hoped the Council will, when labour and materials become

more plentiful, endeavour to bring such houses more up to date. A modest start in this direction has already been made in so far as some properties are now being wired for electricity — a boon to those tenants who depend on oil lamps for lighting.

Since the conclusion of hostilities in the late war the Council has embarked on the building of a really good — some think too good—type of house. In floor space these cover approximately 1,000 feet each, as compared with 700 to 800 feet in earlier days, and are fitted up in such a manner, except for the high rent, as to delight the heart of any housewife.

The cost, however, is such that the resultant weekly rent of 20/- or so, is one which some families are finding it difficult to pay. This question and the heartbreaking slowness in building the houses are matters which have caused and still do cause the Council very deep concern, and despite all efforts there does not yet seem to be much prospect of reducing the cost or speeding up the work except at the expense of the standard which all agree should remain as high as possible.

In most parts of the Council's district the lists of applications for houses continue to reach alarming proportions, and judging by the progress already achieved in providing new houses it is tragic to think that some years must elapse before many of the families so badly needing them are accommodated.

In the allocation of houses the Council has adopted a points scheme which is administered by the Lettings Committee for the parish in which the houses to be let are situated.

While no hard and fast rule is followed it is claimed that the scheme has so far operated successfully in ensuring that the family living in overcrowded or insanitary conditions is automatically brought to the notice of the committee concerned, and has been the means of securing better housing conditions for such families when available.

The question of supervision of the tenants is one which has become very important of recent years and rightly so. When it is remembered that Local Authorities have spent and are continuing to spend huge sums of money on building houses, it is their duty to ensure as far as possible that the houses and their fittings should not be subject to the misuse and damage which unfortunately is sometimes experienced. The primary object must be that the families destined to occupy the houses should be educated to preserve the amenities provided for them at such a terrible price and to instil into their minds a greater sense of civic dignity and responsibility so often lacking. In many cases the tenant is not wholly to blame. It may be and frequently is the case that families taken from squalid surroundings are totally ignorant of the care and maintenance of the bath, W.C., hot water apparatus and the like, and unless instruction is given in the use

of these things considerable damage and waste may be caused unwittingly. In effect the aim should be to teach a new and inexperienced community to be "house-minded." The task is one of some magnitude and will not be accomplished in a few days or weeks, but in some cases must go on unremittingly. An intelligent rent collector on his regular visits for the rent can do a great deal by tactful guidance and advice on the spot, to minimise the damage caused through carelessness and inexperience on the part of the tenant or his family.

In this respect the Council is to be commended on the appointment, in January, 1948, to the Staff of the Housing Department, of a Female Welfare Officer whose main duty it is to contact the families both before and after becoming tenants of the Council in order to give instruction in the use of the fittings and equipment provided so as to ensure their proper and careful use, to give advice to the tenants in times of sickness and other domestic troubles and by means of periodical inspections to make sure that the houses are being maintained in a reasonably clean condition. The appointment has so far been a particularly happy one, the officer concerned being of a cheerful disposition, resourceful and possessing qualities of tact and patience so essential for the work she is called upon to undertake and as further experience is gained in the years to come it is felt that the efforts now being made will be rewarded.

It should not be assumed that all tenants of Council houses are in need of this supervision. By no means is that so. It has been found that by obtaining the confidence of the tenants at an early stage and by giving hints and advice on all sorts of seemingly unimportant matters the family usually settles down very comfortably in the new surroundings and live a normal life. There are the difficult cases, however, which need the watchful eye at all times and occasionally, such is human nature, a firm stand must be taken in order to bring home to the tenant a proper sense of his responsibilities.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

No trouble has been experienced during the year from van dwellers.

CIVIL BUILDING LICENSING.

The year saw a relaxation in the licensing restrictions which was welcomed by local authorities in general. The monetary limit above which it was necessary to obtain a licence was considerably raised and the number of licences issued by your Licensing Officer was thereby reduced substantially.

A return to the issuing of licences for the building of houses by private enterprise, though on a modified scale, was nevertheless welcome, and a number of licences were issued in the latter part of the year.

SECTION "E." Meat and Other Foods.

The District continues to be served from the central abattoir at Shrewsbury, and such meat is subject to re-examination, locally, as is required.

FOOD PREMISES.

No. of Premises where food is sold, prepared or stored. 46.

No. of Inspections of above. 48.

Action taken in respect of deficiencies found under Section 13 (F. & D. Act, 1938). *Nil*.

No. of Premises registered under Section 14 (F. & D. Act, 1938).

(a) Manufacture of meat products. *Nil*.

(b) Ice-cream retailers. 7.

No. of Inspections of above. 12.

Action taken in respect of deficiencies found under Section 13 (F. & D. Act, 1938). *Nil*.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	558	242	670	2552	87
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	5	25	47	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	151	106	6	162	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	27.59	45.84	4.62	8.18	24.13
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	13	1	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	34	133	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.27	60.33	.149	—	6.89

1. Number of Slaughter Houses in district. *None in use.*
2. No. of Persons Licensed to stun and slaughter animals in slaughter houses and knackers' yards. 11.
3. Action taken with regard to inspections of slaughter houses, shops, stalls, and vehicles, and places where food is prepared. *Inspection of meat at the Newport slaughter-house continued to be shared by one of your Sanitary Officers with officers of Newport Urban and Shifnal Rural Districts. In the opinion of your Sanitary Officers these premises are not designed to deal with the present volume of slaughtering. The storage of carcasses and offal leaves much to be desired and the overcrowded conditions which prevail accentuate the difficulties of adequate meat inspection. The majority of the meat rejected as unfit for food was derived from casualty animals.*

ICE CREAM.

There has been an increase in the number of registrations of premises for the sale of ice-cream. These premises are invariably provided with modern refrigerators and instructions have been given in all cases to the need for proper sterilization of servers and other utensils used, and the personal hygiene of the persons engaged in serving ice-cream. Enquiries have been made as to the source of supply of ice-cream in every case and confirmation of the registration of such sources has been obtained from the local authorities concerned.

There seems to be likelihood of a further increase in the number of retailers and arrangements are being made for periodic sampling.

OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

<i>Tinned Foods Condemned.</i>				
<i>Kind.</i>			<i>Miscellaneous.</i>	
			<i>Kind.</i>	<i>No. of tins.</i>
Meat	..	..	Preserves	4
Fish	..	..
Fruit	..	..
Vegetables	..	..
Milk	..	..

FRESH AND DRIED FOODS CONDEMNED.

<i>Fish.</i>		<i>Fruit.</i>	
<i>Kind.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>	<i>Kind.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
<i>Nil</i>		Apricots ..	.. 21
		Prunes ..	.. 33

<i>Vegetables.</i>		<i>Miscellaneous.</i>	
<i>Kind.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>	<i>Kind.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Marrows.. ..	400	Dried Egg ..	14
		Oatmeal	448
		Flour	80
		Cheese	5

MILK.

No. of cowkeepers and milksellers on register. 341.

No. of above cowkeepers and milksellers who hold licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936, in respect of—

	<i>Tuber- culin Tested.</i>	<i>Accred- ited.</i>	<i>Pasteur- ised.</i>
(a) Establishments of producers and bottlers	6	3	—
(b) Establishments of producers only	34	46	—
(c) Establishments licensed to pasteurise milk	—	—	2
(d) Establishments licensed to bottle T.T. milk	1	—	—
(e) No. of supplementary or dealers' licences issued ..	4	—	1

No. of inspections. 85.

COMMENTS.

A further increase in the number of accredited and tuberculin tested producers in your district has been noted during the year. While this has been largely due to the co-operation which exists with the County Sanitary Officer the desire of some farmers to produce designated milk must not be overlooked. I feel it must be correct to say they are influenced as much by the desire to produce a high class article as by any financial gain which they might make.

There is still, however, much room available on the list of designated producers and it is hoped that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, when it assumes control, will be able to exercise the necessary persuasion on those farmers who have failed to "toe the line."

SECTION "F."

FACTORIES ACT, 1937. PART I.

<i>Inspections.</i>	<i>No. on Regis- ter.</i>	<i>No. of Inspec- tions.</i>	<i>No. of Written Notices.</i>	<i>No. of Occup- iers Prose- cuted.</i>
(1) Factories in which 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 sections are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	39	29	—	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	39	29	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>No. of Cases in which Defects were found.</i>				
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Rem- edied.</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. In- spec.</i>	<i>By H.M. In- spec.</i>	<i>Pro- secu- tions.</i>
Want of cleanliness ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences ..	—	2	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defec- tive	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	2	—	—	—

PART 8 OF THE ACT.

Outwork Sections 110 and 111. *Nil.*

SECTION " G."

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and Allied Diseases.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the Year, together with the number of Deaths :—

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Cases notified.</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>
	1947	1948	
Scarlet Fever	14	41	—
Whooping Cough ..	36	76	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	2	1	—
Measles	396	77	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ..	16	21	—
Dysentery	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever ..	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	11	—	—
Erysipelas	6	1	—

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>		<i>Whooping Cough.</i>		<i>Acute Polio Myelitis.</i>		<i>Measles.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	1	—	2	7	—	—	—	1
1	1	1	13	7	—	—	10	6
3	7	3	9	10	1	—	9	11
5	13	8	14	11	—	—	13	17
10	4	1	—	2	—	—	3	2
15	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	3
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
age un-known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	27	14	38	38	1	—	37	40

Years.	<i>Pneumonia.</i>		<i>Dysentery.</i>		<i>Erysipelas.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	4	—	—	—	—	—
5	4	3	—	—	—	—
15	3	2	1	—	—	1
45	3	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	2	—	—	—	—
age un- known	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	14	7	1	—	—	1

SCABIES.

No cases of this contagion have required to be localised by the District Authority.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of notified cases on the Register at December 31st, 1948, and the comparative numbers for 1946 and 1947, are as follows :—

	<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
1946	81	79	46	87	293
1947	80	83	45	88	296
1948	78	88	48	94	308

NEW CASES.

Pulmonary, 8. Non-Pulmonary, 13. Total, 21.

DEATH RATES.

	<i>Wellington Rural.</i>	<i>England and Wales.</i>
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population ..	·14	·43
Death Rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	·05	·07
Total Death Rate (all forms) ..	·19	·5

There were 3 deaths from Pulmonary and 1 from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY TABLE, 1948.

Age Group	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5-15	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	—
15-25	2	3	—	—	—	1	1	—
25-35	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65-	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	4	6	7	2	1	1	—

CANCER.

The number of deaths from Cancer in 1948 was 17 males and 16 females. Total, 33.

		Wellington	England and
		Rural.	Wales.
Death Rate per 1,000,000 living	..	1524	1816

W. A. M. STEWART,
Medical Officer of Health.

Date, 4th August, 1949.

